IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 8, 17, 23 to 28, 30, 62 to 68, 70 and 72 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter contained therein.

Please add new Claims 73 to 75 and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) User interface apparatus for providing user interfaces corresponding to each of a plurality of different devices, said ~~enabling a user to communicate with a processor-controlled machine, the~~ user interface apparatus comprising ~~a housing containing a user interface provider which comprises~~:

a data requester operable to request [[a]] device description data of a desired device, the device description data describing ~~defining all of the~~ functions that the desired device ~~processor-controlled machine~~ is capable of carrying out;

a receiver operable to receive, ~~in response to the request from the data requestor,~~ the device description data of the desired device from the desired device ~~for the processor-controlled machine~~;

~~a user interface element accessor operable to access user interface element data defining user interface elements that can be used to form a user interface;~~

an associator operable to associate the functions ~~defined by~~ described in the received device description data with candidates of user interface elements ~~defined by the user interface element data~~;

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a generator operable to generate a user interface ~~data defining a user interface using the user interface element data for~~ of the desired device by laying out the candidates of the user interface elements associated ~~by the associator~~ with the described functions by said associator ~~defined by the device description~~; and

a communicator operable to communicate with the desired device ~~processor-controlled machine~~ to cause the desired device ~~processor-controlled machine~~ to carry out a function selected by a [[the]] user using the user interface generated by said ~~the~~ generator.

2. (Currently Amended) User interface apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: ~~for enabling a user to communicate with a processor-controlled machine to cause that processor-controlled machine to carry out a function, the user interface apparatus comprising a housing containing a user interface provider which comprises:~~

~~a data requestor operable to request the processor-controlled machine to provide a device description defining all of the functions that the processor-controlled machine is capable of carrying out;~~

~~a receiver operable to receive the device description provided by the processor-controlled machine in response to the request from the data requestor;~~

~~a user interface element accessor operable to access user interface element data defining user interface elements that can be used to form a user interface;~~

an associator operable to associate the functions defined by the received device description with user interface elements defined by the user interface element data to provide user interface element option data in which at least one function is associated with at least two possible alternative user interface elements;

a preference provider providing pre-stored preference data regarding user interface element preferences, preferences;

a user interface element determiner operable to determine, using the user interface element option data and the pre-stored preference data, the user interface elements to be used to represent the functions of the processor-controlled machine;

[[a]] wherein said generator is operable to select a candidate from amongst the candidates of the user interface elements based on the pre-stored preference data, and operable to generate the user interface of the desired device by laying out the selected candidates of the data defining a user interface elements when said associator associates one of the functions with the plurality of candidates of from the device description using the user interface elements. element data for the user interface elements determined by the user interface determiner; and

a data communicator operable to communicate with the processor-controlled machine to enable the user of the user interface to cause the processor-controlled machine to carry out any of the functions defined by the device description.

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3. (Original) User interface apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the preference provider is operable to provide preference data defining preferences of at least one of the user of the user interface apparatus and the supplier of the user interface apparatus.

4. (Original) User interface apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the preference provider is operable to provide preference data defining at least one of preferences for different types of user interface elements; preferences for the style of presentation of user interface elements and preferences for layout of user interface elements.

5. (Previously Presented) User interface apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the preference provider is operable to provide preference data defining at least one of preferences for different types of user interface elements and user interface element style preferences to be used for user interface elements.

6. (Original) User interface apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user interface comprises a graphical user interface and the apparatus further comprises a display for displaying the user interface to a user.

7. (Cancelled).

8.   (Cancelled).

9.   (Currently Amended) User interface apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data requestor is operable to communicate directly with <u>the desired device</u> a ~~processor-controlled machine~~.

10.   (Currently Amended) User interface apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data requestor is operable to communicate with <u>the desired device</u> a ~~processor-controlled machine~~ via a network to which the <u>desired device</u> ~~processor-controlled machine~~ is coupled.

11.   (Cancelled).

12.   (Currently Amended) User interface apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the receiver is operable to receive the device description <u>data</u> directly from <u>the desired device</u> ~~a processor-controlled machine~~.

13.   (Currently Amended) User interface apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the receiver is operable to <u>receive</u> ~~access~~ the device description <u>data</u> using a look-up service provided by a network to which the <u>desired device</u> ~~processor-controlled machine~~ is coupled.

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14.   (Currently Amended) User interface apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user interface apparatus includes ~~provider is provided by~~ a processor and associated memory storing a user interface application implementable by the processor.

15.   (Previously Presented) User interface apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the user interface application comprises a plurality of separate program modules.

16.   (Currently Amended) User interface apparatus according to claim 15, wherein [[the]] said data requestor, said communicator, said receiver, said associator, and said ~~user interface element accessor, associator, and~~ generator comprise respective different ones of the program modules.

17.   (Cancelled).

18.   (Currently Amended) A device ~~processor-controlled machine~~ for use with a user interface apparatus in accordance with claim 1, the device ~~processor-controlled machine~~ having a functioner for carrying out at least one function; a wireless machine communicator for communicating wirelessly with the user interface device apparatus to enable a [[the]] user of the user interface to cause the device ~~processor-controlled machine~~ to carry out a function; and a device description provider for providing to the user interface apparatus upon request by said ~~the~~ data requestor the device ~~a single~~

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~~device~~ description <u>data describing</u> ~~defining~~ all of the functions that the <u>device</u>

~~processor-controlled machine~~ is capable of carrying out.

19.   (Currently Amended) A <u>device</u> ~~processor-controlled machine~~

according to claim 18, wherein the functioner is operable to carry out a printing function.

20.   (Currently Amended) A <u>device</u> ~~processor-controlled machine~~

according to claim 18, wherein the functioner is operable to carry out a facsimile

communication function.

21.   (Currently Amended) A <u>device</u> ~~processor-controlled machine~~

according to claim 18, wherein the functioner is operable to carry out a copying function.

22.   (Currently Amended) A <u>device</u> ~~processor-controlled machine~~

according to claim 18, wherein the functioner is operable to carry out a scanning function.

23 to 51. (Cancelled)

52.   (Previously Presented) A user interface apparatus according to

claim 1, further comprising:

a user-settable data handling parameter definer having at least one

parameter settable by a user; and

a data handler operable to handle received data in accordance with at least one data handling parameter set by the user.

53.   (Previously Presented) A user interface apparatus according to claim 52, wherein the data handler is operable to divert an incoming message so that the user is not made aware of the message.

54.   (Previously Presented) A user interface apparatus according to claim 52, wherein the data handler is operable to send received data to a location determined by at least one parameter set by the user.

55 to 57. (Cancelled).

58.   (Currently Amended) A user interface apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a user interface modifier operable to modify the user interface in response to data identifying the availability of another device processor-controlled machine.

59.   (Previously Presented) A user interface apparatus according to claim 58, wherein the user interface modifier is operable to make available a copy or print user interface function in response to data identifying the availability of a printer.

60.   (Cancelled).

61.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing processor

implementable instructions for causing a processor to become configured as a user

interface apparatus in accordance with claim 1.

62 to 68. (Cancelled).

69.   (Currently Amended) User interface apparatus according to claim 1,

further for enabling a user to control a processor-controlled machine coupled to a network,

the user interface apparatus comprising:

a network communicator operable to determine whether another device, that

in combination with said desired device provides a further function not otherwise provided

by said desired device, is communicate with a processor-controlled machine coupled to the

network; and

a display for displaying a user interface to a user;

a user interface provider for providing on the display a user interface for

said processor-controlled machine such that the user interface includes user interface

display elements for functions that said processor-controlled machine is capable of

carrying out;

wherein the network communicator is operable to determine whether

another processor-controlled machine, that in combination with said processor-controlled

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machine provides a further function not otherwise provided by said processor-controlled machine, is coupled to the network, and

a the user interface apparatus further comprises a user interface controller operable to control the user interface for said desired device processor-controlled machine in accordance with whether or not said other device processor-controlled machine is coupled to the network so as to indicate to the user that said further function is not available when said other device processor-controlled machine is not coupled to the network and to indicate to the user that said further function is available when said other device processor-controlled machine is coupled to the network.

70.   (Cancelled).

71.   (Previously Presented) User interface apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the preference provider is operable to provide preference data defining preferences for at least one of button, menu or combo box type user interface elements and at least one of color, font and font size user interface element styles to be used for user interface elements.

72.   (Cancelled).

73.   (New) User interface apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said associator is operable to retrieve a default layout including a plurality of different panes,

and to associate the functions corresponding to each pane of the default layout with candidates of user interface elements, and wherein said generator is operable to generate a user interface of the desired device by laying out the candidates of the user interface elements associated with the functions by said associator.

74. (New) User interface apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device description data is described by XML.

75. (New) User interface method for providing user interfaces corresponding to each of a plurality of different devices, said user interface method comprising the steps of:

requesting device description data of a desired device, the device description data describing functions that the desired device is capable of carrying out;

receiving the device description data of the desired device from the desired device;

associating the functions described in the received device description data with candidates of user interface elements;

generating a user interface of the desired device by laying out the candidates of the user interface elements associated with the described functions by said associating step; and

communicating with the desired device to cause the desired device to carry out a function selected by a user using the user interface generated by said generating step.